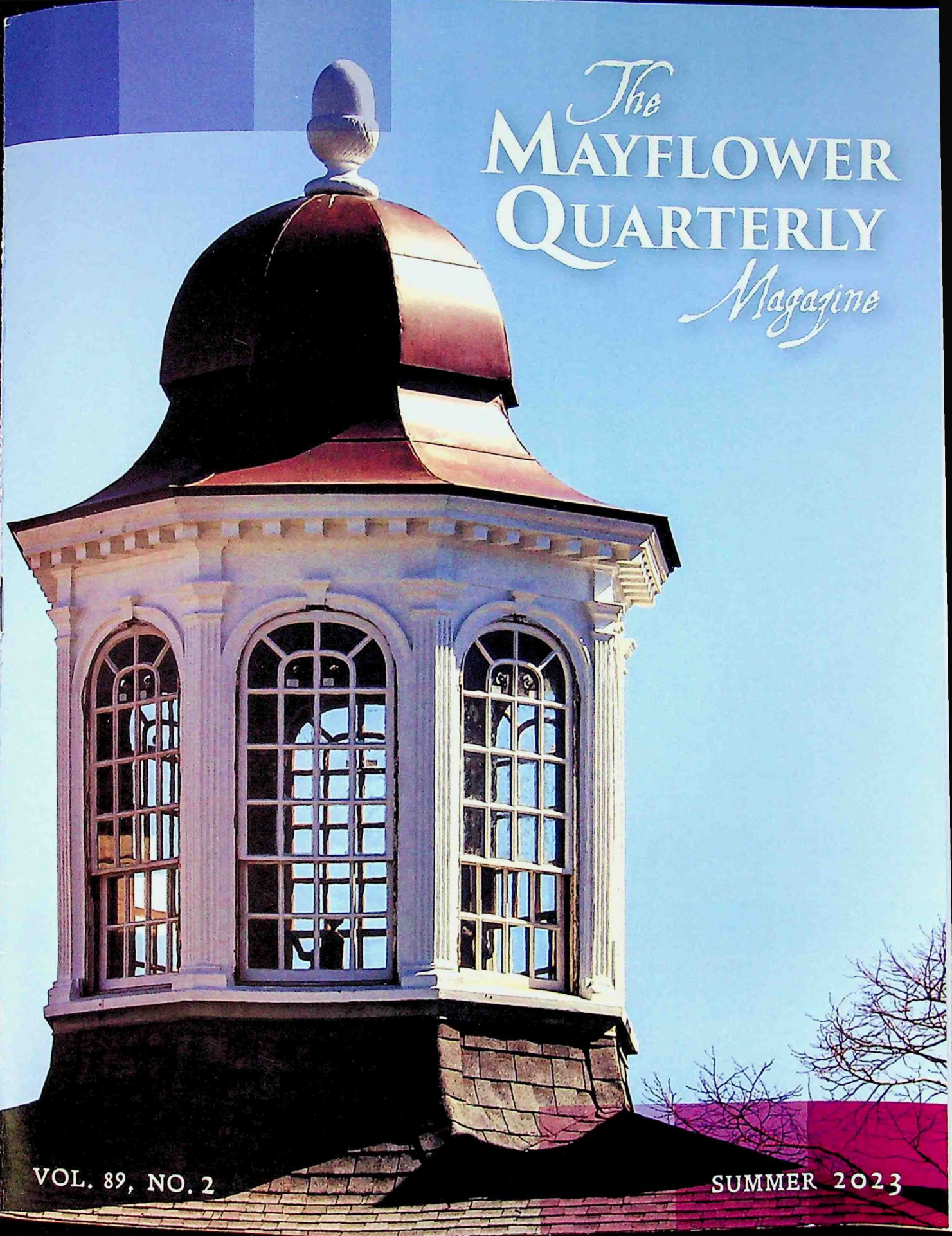

The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine

VOL. 89, NO. 2

SUMMER 2023

General Society of Mayflower Descendants

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The Mayflower Society House Virtual Lecture Series continues in 2023! These lectures cover a variety of Pilgrim related topics, including the Pilgrims' odyssey, their life and times, their maritime experience and, of course, genealogy.

Please plan to join us for the next lecture topics highlighted below from the comfort of your home. These lectures are free and no pre-registration is needed. For more information visit: TheMayflowerSociety.org/history/lecture-series.

the Mayflower Society House
Virtual Lecture Series

Thursday, June 29
7:00 pm (ET)
Misha Ewen
The Virginia Venture:
American Colonization and English Society, 1580-1660

Thursday, July 13
7:00 pm (ET)
Anne Mason
"Welcome to the Plymouth Antiquarian Society"

Tuesday, October 3
7:00 pm (ET)
Denise Cross
"Bridging the Gap: Getting Around Brick Walls"

Cover Art: Close-up of the new copper dome on the Mayflower Society House's cupola. Photo: Doug B.

The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine (ISSN 0148-5032) is published quarterly by the not-for-profit General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 18 Winslow Street, Plymouth, MA 02360. The magazine is available to all GSMD members in good standing as well as by annual subscription to the public for $24 (+ shipping for those outside the continental US). Periodical postage paid at Plymouth, Massachusetts, and additional offices. **POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, 18 Winslow Street, Plymouth, MA 02360-3313.

Deadlines for submission:

January 1:	April 1:	July 1:	October 1:
Spring Issue	Summer Issue	Fall Issue	Winter Issue

Submissions: To submit to *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, please e-mail MQMEditor@TheMayflowerSociety.org. All articles submitted should be sent as Microsoft Word documents; photographs submitted should be sent as 300 dpi resolution or higher.

Mailing Address:
18 Winslow Street
Plymouth, MA 02360-3313

The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine

VOLUME 89, NO.2
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EDITOR'S NOTE

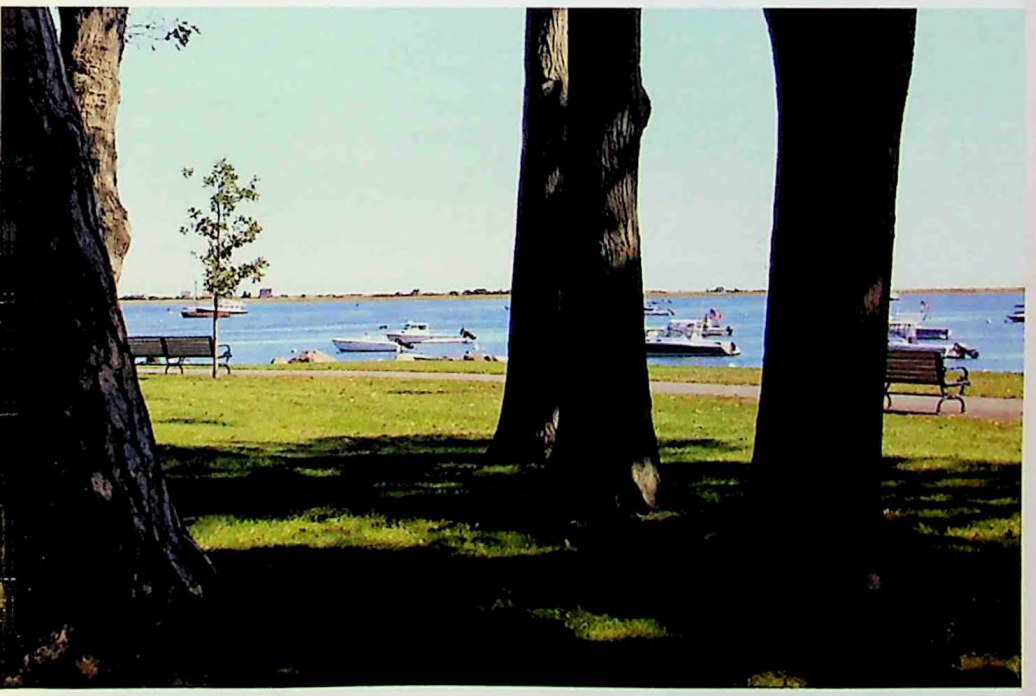
Plymouth and Cape Cod can become quite packed during the summer as thousands of visitors come to enjoy what the South Shore has to offer. This 2023 summer issue of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*, you hold now, is likewise packed with content that I hope you will enjoy.

In addition to the usual articles, news and updates, this issue of *The MQM* contains a wealth of history and genealogical articles. Executive Director Mark Schmidt has written an in depth and interesting look at the history of the Mayflower Society House and Peggy Baker has written an excellent article about Mary Churchill's family connections.

This issue also contains further information about the Forty-third General Congress to be held in Plymouth, Massachusetts, **September 8-13, 2023**. It is sure to be a great time and there are a number of wonderful events and tours planned. If you have not already done so, please make sure to register prior to July 15.

I look forward to seeing everyone in person!

– DB



▲ Summer in Plymouth. Can you spot the shallop Elizabeth Tilley?

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Governor General's Message

GOVERNOR GENERAL
JANE E. GROVES RIDDELL HURT

As we look forward to the Forty-third General Congress, September 8-13, 2023, and the opportunity to meet together in Plymouth, we reflect on the past three years. Together we have survived an international pandemic and continued the business of The Mayflower Society. Please join me and your Mayflower cousins for Congress and to celebrate The Mayflower Society's achievements. The Congress schedule includes outstanding tours, events, and speakers. I welcome you to tour your restored Mayflower Society House and see the progress on the interior restoration of the Meetinghouse. We will have two days of business meetings followed by the election of General Society Officers to serve during the next administration. I cannot wait to welcome you to Plymouth—our international headquarters.

Members attending the Mayflower Society Breakfast on April 12th during the Heritage Fortnight events in Washington D.C., experienced an outstanding program, "The Mayflower Compact and its impact on the American Legal System," presented by Sheila Slocum Hollis.

My Member Society visits this spring included the Hawaii Society, New York Society, Indiana Society, Texas Society, Mississippi Society, Arizona Society, and South Carolina Society. I was also the speaker via Zoom for the Wyoming Society. Thank you all for your hospitality. I thoroughly enjoyed visiting each society. Your kindness was very special. Thank you!

Between visits to Member Societies, I flew to Plymouth for the March Executive Committee meeting.

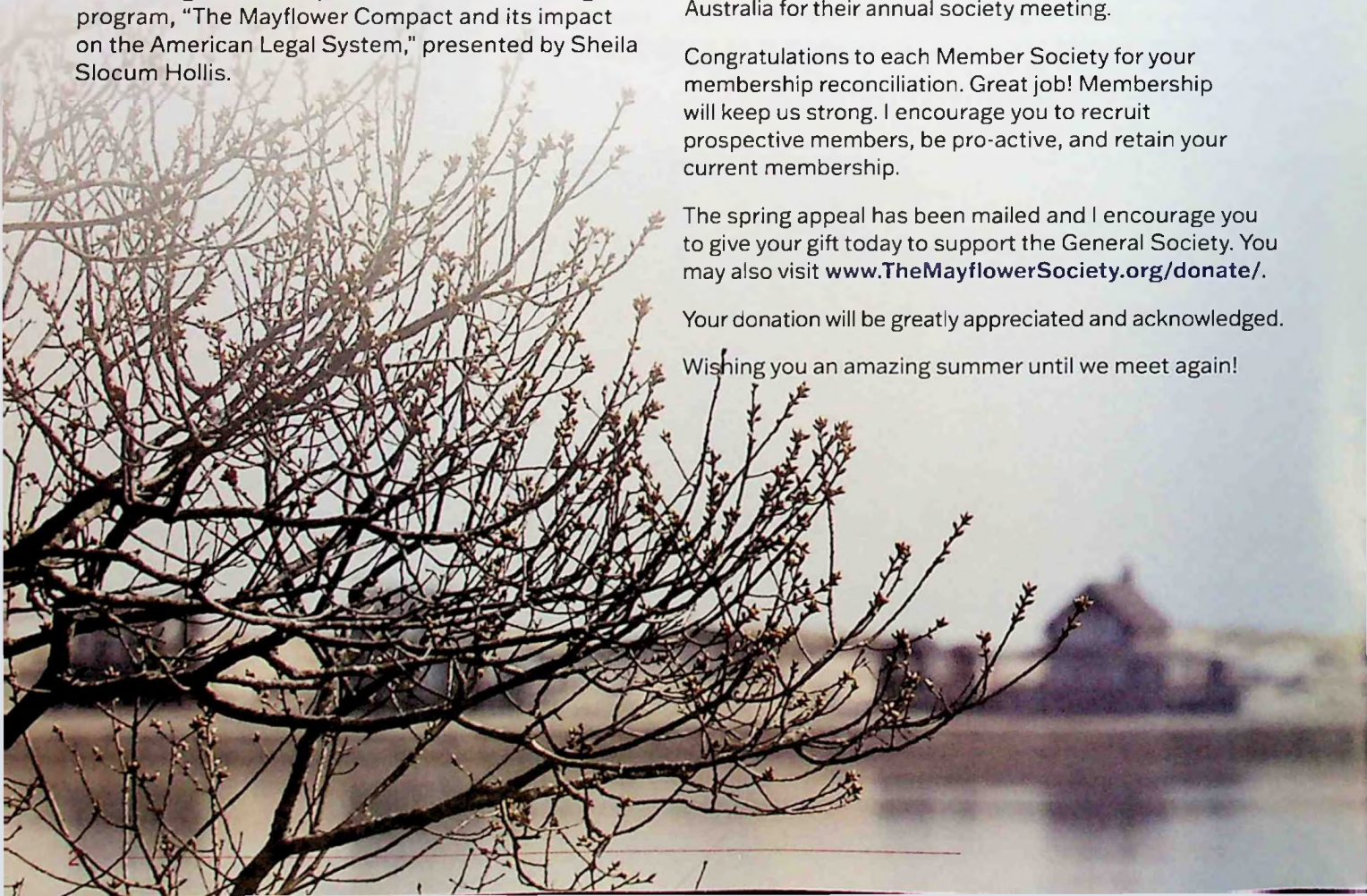
This summer, I will visit the Colorado Society, travel to Plymouth for the June Executive Committee meeting, and as my final Member Society visit in July, I will travel to Australia for their annual society meeting.

Congratulations to each Member Society for your membership reconciliation. Great job! Membership will keep us strong. I encourage you to recruit prospective members, be pro-active, and retain your current membership.

The spring appeal has been mailed and I encourage you to give your gift today to support the General Society. You may also visit **www.TheMayflowerSociety.org/donate/**.

Your donation will be greatly appreciated and acknowledged.

Wishing you an amazing summer until we meet again!



News from the Plymouth Office – Executive Director's Update

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MARK SCHMIDT

As the summer in Plymouth approaches, we at The Mayflower Society are looking forward to the return of tourists, warm temperatures and outdoor activities. We are also awaiting the conclusion of much of the restoration efforts being done at the Mayflower Society House (the "House"). While not everything will be finished when Congress comes in September, those who do come will be able to experience a vast array of enhancements and upgrades to the House as we work to preserve it for generations to come.

The House has seen improvements in its electrical systems, foundation work, heating system, windows, roof, flooring, ceilings, woodwork, and plumbing. A new catering kitchen, new handicap ramp, restored copper roof and cupola, and upgraded windows and gutters are among the multiple developments in the House's continued journey through time—all while keeping the feel of a stately older home that thrived in days gone by. Work on the exterior brickwork and metal gates preserve the grand entrance to the House, while interior advancements allow the House to be used by members and guests for many years to come. Those who visit the House in the days and years ahead will appreciate the luster that the House has offered those who came through its doors long ago. The House will continue to be a destination spot for visitors to Plymouth and will resume its role as being the signature property and headquarters for The Mayflower Society.

These improvements and restorations of the building do not mean that everything will be completed on the building come the fall. Rooms will need to be wallpapered; lighting will need to be upgraded; and smaller rooms will need to be addressed in some fashion. We will need the patronage of our membership to make certain that the work carries on in the manner that you expect and deserve. But, we are making giant strides in guaranteeing the success of the House for future guests and sightseers.

A lot of time, effort and money has been invested in making this project come to fruition. A lot of members contributed towards the restoration and a lot of contractors worked extremely hard to put in quality work. But, as much of the project nears its completion, we think you will like what you see when you come to Plymouth. A huge "thank you" to all of you for making this happen.

I would be remiss if I did not take some time to thank Dr. Erin Scheopner for her incredible work as the Director of Genealogy and Research Services. In her thirteen months at the helm, Dr. Scheopner and her team worked tirelessly to reduce the backlog of applications, improve communications with historians, and create a harmonious work flow with everyone involved with The Mayflower Society. Dr. Scheopner has accepted a position at Boston College, but she will be missed by the staff collectively and by me individually. It was an honor and a privilege to have worked with her and the job she performed will not be forgotten.

Mayflower Meetinghouse Interior Renovations Continue

LEA SINCLAIR FILSON, PRESIDENT, NATIONAL PILGRIM MEMORIAL MEETINGHOUSE CHARITABLE TRUST

It has been 126 years since men could be seen building the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse, but today work is resuming in the back of the building. As the General Society's Forty-third Congress draws near, that work continues at a steady pace as the building's small footprint makes space for the new Americans with Disabilities Act elevator. It is scheduled for completion in August 2023, in time for Congress. The elevator will travel up and down between the lower entrance hall, the sanctuary, and the chancel.

While inflation, COVID-19, and workforce availability has created obstacles over the past three years, the Mayflower Meetinghouse restoration continues. Like our Mayflower ancestors, who worked through the most impossible of times, but moved forward, the Meetinghouse team faces each obstacle and continues moving forward.

The elevator excavation unearthed water that had been running for years under the building, leading many to believe there was a stream running underneath. Instead, it was a broken pipe that has now been repaired.

This phase of the project was priced to include the new entrance as well as the gift shop, but the historic challenges have slowed down the progress as prices have increased. The budget for this phase now will cover only the elevator. No matter the time it takes, we will prevail, making sure we respect this beautiful towering iconic treasure that we are leaving as our legacy of the 400th Anniversary of the landing of the *Mayflower*.

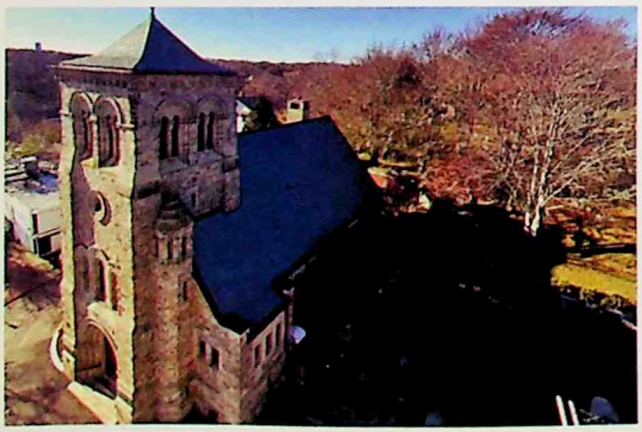
▲ Under the foundation of the Mayflower Meetinghouse.

An anonymous pledge of $1,000,000 from a generous donor will soon provide enough funding to include all that was planned in the first phase. The entrance and gift shop, plus the restoration of our bells and carillon will begin after Congress. More news on this exciting announcement is coming...

There is so much more to be done. The heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, technology, and restrooms are progressing, along with the restoration of the sanctuary to bring it back to its original splendor. Then all the elements of surprise and delight will be created, such as our film, the interactive bays downstairs, and the beautiful markers throughout spotlighting our generous donors.

▲ Building the elevator shaft.

Thank you for keeping this project alive. Donations continue to come in from members, Member Societies, and other generous donors. If you know of anyone who is interested in joining our efforts to restore the Mayflower Meetinghouse, please send them to Plymouth to see the project for themselves. If you plan to visit Plymouth this summer, get in touch ahead of time and arrange a tour. After all, the Mayflower Meetinghouse belongs to us all.



▲ View of the Mayflower Meetinghouse from the Church of the Pilgrimage.

Mayflower Society House History

MARK SCHMIDT,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

▲ View of the Mayflower Society House from the bottom of North Street c. 1875.

In December of 1941, for the cost of $23,500, The Mayflower Society acquired a stately but seen-better-days building known as the Winslow House, located at 4 Winslow Street, and saved it from the wrecking ball. The two-story, high-style Georgian period house was well-known in Plymouth, and many of the local people wanted to see it saved, but the cost—especially during the Great Depression—was more than the townspeople were willing to bear. Most residents in Plymouth determined that it was simply a beautiful relic of the town's past and, while they would mourn it no longer being near the Plymouth waterfront, it would simply be a victim of the ravages of time.

But, I am getting ahead of myself. As The Mayflower Society recently celebrated its 125th year of existence, I would like to give you a very brief history of the iconic house that has been the headquarters and the identifying building for The Mayflower Society for about eighty years, spending a little time to focus on the World War II era and how the house was utilized during that period of history.

Let us start, if you will, at the beginning...

The Mayflower Society House ("House"), originally known as the Winslow House, was built in 1754 by Edward Winslow, the great-grandson of Mayflower passenger and third governor of Plymouth Colony, Edward Winslow. The younger Edward Winslow attended Harvard College and then settled in Plymouth. A popular and influential man, he became Clerk of the Court, Registrar of Probate, and Collector of the Port. Married in 1741 to Hannah Howland Dyer, he settled into a life of a well-to-do politician.

However, Winslow was a Loyalist—a Tory—a supporter of King George III during the American Revolution. In fact, he was an avid and outspoken supporter—so much so that his politics ultimately infuriated his neighbors. He was stripped of his political positions and his income. His son joined with the British forces during the war, and he frequently hosted British officers in the House. After the battle of Bunker Hill in 1775, and the subsequent evacuation of Boston on March 17, 1776, Winslow left his House in Plymouth and moved to New York. He would ultimately move to Halifax, Nova Scotia, along with many other Loyalist families, where he would live out his days.

Elder General Reverend Dr. Pike Retires from Office

MEG AVERETT, SECRETARY GENERAL

The Reverend Dr. Thomas F. Pike recently retired as the General Society of Mayflower Descendants' Elder General. The Reverend Dr. Pike, a member of the New York Society, was elected as Elder General in 2017. The General Society thanks the Reverend Dr. Pike for his service and spiritual guidance. The Executive Committee will miss his sage advice.

▲ Construction on the Mayflower Society House in the 1930s.

In order to support his family after losing his positions, Winslow had pledged his House as security for loans made to him. When he left Plymouth, and much to his dismay, the House was sold to satisfy Winslow's creditors. It is often mistakenly said that the House was confiscated.

In 1782, the courts ordered the Sheriff of Plymouth to sell the House to pay for Winslow's debts. Thomas Jackson Jr. of Plymouth purchased the House in December 1782, paying off the debtors. However, in 1813, he ran into his own financial issues and he himself was sued by his cousins, Daniel and Charles Jackson. Daniel and Charles purchased Thomas Jackson's holdings (six acres, including the Winslow House). They became the owners, and the Jackson family, their heirs, and the Briggs family, became the deed holders for the next eighty-five years.

A couple of stories from this era: Charles Jackson, in 1832, was aboard the ship *Sully* when he made the acquaintance of a fellow passenger: Samuel Morse. It was Jackson who conveyed to Morse the idea of using electricity for telegraphic purposes, and in 1840, Morse applied for a patent for the telegraph. Jackson was also among the first doctors to use ether for surgical operations, and was noted by the French Academy of Science for that accomplishment. He was involved with Dr. W. T. G. Morton, who was the first to use ether in surgical operations.

Charles' daughter Lydia Jackson, a very well-spoken and well-educated woman, met, fell in love with, and married the Reverend Ralph Waldo Emerson in the east parlor of the House on September 14, 1835. It was said that when the Emersons held dinner parties in the House, the guests would much rather have chatted with Lydia (or "Lydian," as Emerson called her) than "Waldo." Charles Jackson eventually sold his part of the House to Lydia and Ralph Waldo Emerson in 1851, and they remained owners until 1872.

The Emerson's sold the House to another medical family: the Briggs. The Briggs family owned the House from 1872 to 1897, using it as a summer home. They sold it to Charles Lewis Willoughby, the first non-Mayflower descendant to own the House. Willoughby was interested in lineage societies and he helped promote them. As a merchant, he had made a fortune in apparel and real estate, and was heavily involved in businesses in both Boston and Chicago. He had clothing shipped to Chicago right after the 1871 Chicago fire, "charging what the market would bear." He listed his business profession as "Capitalist."

Willoughby hired Joseph Everett Chandler, a major proponent of Colonial Revival architecture to restore the House. Chandler was born in Plymouth, Massachusetts, studied architecture at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and became an authority on Colonial architecture. He was known for his involvement in the restoration of many historic buildings, such as the House of Seven Gables and the Paul Revere House. Chandler made extreme changes to the Mayflower Society House. At the time, the House was half of its present size, sat close to the ground and was much closer to the street. He moved it back thirty feet from the road, raised it five feet, set it on a new foundation, doubled the space of the front stair hall and added new wings to the House. A new portico and front porch were added before 1906 and the cupola was added about the same time. Myriad other changes throughout the House came as well. Many of Chandler's alterations—windows, inside shutters, paneling, other details—are still with the House now and were created to keep the House similar to the original structure. The Willoughby's, who used the House in the summer, loved the changes (Mrs. Willoughby continued making alterations, including a new solarium in the 1910s and 1920s, along with a six-foot red brick wall on the east side of the property). Not everyone was thrilled, though. George Briggs' daughter Rose Thornton Briggs (a founder of the Plymouth Antiquarian Society) remarked some years after Chandler's death, the House "*was my house before Joe Chandler tarted it up.*"

The Willoughby's owned the House until 1935, when, because of the Great Depression, they felt that they had to sell it. Their daughter Grace Willoughby Martin Maher, put the House up for sale. It had seventeen rooms, four bathrooms, a teahouse, a four-car garage, hot houses and two acres of land. However, due to the economy of the time, a buyer could not be found until 1941. The House was falling into disrepair and there was talk of demolishing the property.

Enter, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants ("General Society")...

In December 1939, Governor General Francis Russell Stoddard received a letter from a real estate agent that stated the owner of the Winslow House would like to sell the property by July 1, 1940. If it were not sold by that time, it was to be torn down no later than July 1, 1941. At the time, the House was being used as a meat market on the bottom floor and another business on the second floor.

The General Society had been looking for a permanent national headquarters, and Stoddard was interested in old home preservation. He thought this combination was the perfect storm for what he would like to accomplish and what was needed for the General Society. A committee was appointed in 1939 with the intention of raising enough money to make this purchase come to be. Each Member Society was requested to ask their members to contribute, and $16,000 was raised. (Interestingly, nearly seventy-five percent of the individual contributors were women.) The General Society ultimately raised the $23,500 needed to purchase the House, and a new national headquarters was established.

While the General Society was now the proud owner of the Winslow House, it was also quickly determined that because of World War II, it was unrealistic that the House could be refurbished and filled with furniture until after the war ended. It was the desire of the members of the General Society that the Winslow House should be an inspiration to all who would visit it, and to have the House be of service to Plymouth itself, bringing it closer as a society to the town; therefore, the House was offered to the Plymouth Chapter of the American Red Cross. The first floor, however, would be reserved for the General Society to use during its Congress. The building was in good condition, and the Red Cross was grateful for the space.

The Red Cross occupied the House for the next four years, using the House as work rooms. The kitchen was used as a canteen. Red Cross volunteers sewed, made surgical dressings, and held Junior Red Cross meetings. The House was also used for social events, fundraising, Christmas dances, and Valentine card parties were held in the garden. Bandages were rolled, blood drives were held, and these jobs seemed to be necessary, albeit mundane.

That is, until November 28, 1942...

On that evening, a very popular Boston nightclub named The Cocoanut Grove erupted in flames. It was the first Thanksgiving weekend since the United States had entered World War II, and the capacity for the club was double what it should have been. The

The American National Red Cross
In recognition of meritorious personal service performed in behalf of the nation, her armed forces, and suffering humanity in the Second World War.

From 1942 to 1946 the Mayflower Society House served as the headquarters for the Plymouth chapter of the American Red Cross.

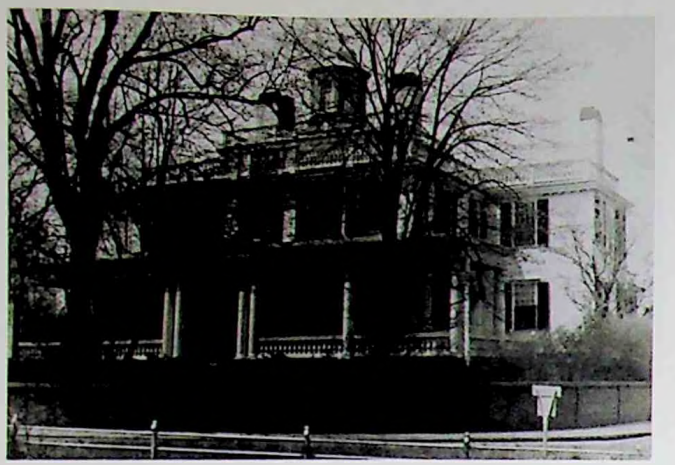
Cocoanut Grove attracted many celebrity visitors. It was owned by Barnet "Barney" Welansky, who was closely connected to the Mafia and to Mayor Maurice J. Tobin. Fire regulations had been flouted: some exit-doors had been locked to prevent unauthorized entry, and the elaborate palm tree décor contained flammable materials. The air-conditioning used flammable gas due to wartime shortage of freon.

The fire was initiated by an electrical short and fueled by methyl chloride in the air conditioning unit. Flames and smoke spread rapidly through all areas of the club, and people were unable to escape due in part to locked exit doors. Blame was directed at Welansky for violation of standards; he served nearly four years in jail before being released just weeks before his death.

Local hospitals were especially well prepared to treat the casualties having been rehearsing emergency drills in response to possible wartime attacks on the East Coast. The crisis demonstrated the value of the new blood banks and stimulated important advances in the treatment of burn victims.

The fire began at 10:30 pm. By 10:45, the Red Cross had mobilized over 500 volunteers in its Boston and Plymouth branches. The Red Cross Motor Corps sent transportation for victims, and its Home Service workers sent blood plasma to local hospitals for assistance with the victims. 492 people died in the tragedy. Another 1,000 individuals were sent to local hospitals for treatment. At the time, it was the worst loss of life in the United States since the attack on Pearl Harbor, and it remains the second deadliest fire in American history.

Because the Red Cross was located along the water on the East Coast of the United States, there was a constant fear of attack by German U-Boats and destroyers. Volunteers were diligent and vigilant, and



▲ Front view of the Mayflower Society House c. 1950.

the need for plasma was stressed among the local citizens. It made mobilizing for an event such as The Cocoanut Grove fire so much easier because people had been on high alert for months.

After that, the Red Cross settled into a more routine setup again—holding blood drives and fundraising dinners. They even hosted a fashion show, and decorated the House for Christmas, complete with a tree and an open house.

Adelaide Newell Meek, a Mayflower Society member and leading advocate for the acquisition of the Mayflower Society House, wrote in February 1943 that she received a letter from a close friend describing the atmosphere at the House while it was in use by the Red Cross:

"As I entered the beautiful front door, the whole house lighted, four young Junior Red Cross girls in their white uniforms were coming down the stairs, their veils floating behind them—such a pretty sight—later they helped in the canteen—a radio in the distance was playing 'Onward Christian Soldiers.' I stopped. I was really quite overcome—all over the house the women in the Red Cross uniforms of the various departments. An official from Washington was there. He was so impressed with the whole thing. I had a long talk with him during the evening. He said that the Society of Mayflower Descendants would never understand or realize what they had done in giving the house over to us."

It was agreed that the Red Cross would vacate the House (still called the Winslow House at this juncture) in April 1945. The Mayflower Society had not held its Congress since the war began, and it aimed to have it at the end of 1945. Ultimately, it was rescheduled to 1946 to allow the war to end and for soldiers to come home. The Mayflower Society ensured repairs had been done on the House, including the chimney, the piazza and the kitchen. In fact, while painting the kitchen, painters inadvertently started a fire using an acetylene torch. It was at that Congress, in 1946, that the House was renamed the Mayflower Society House instead of calling it the Winslow House to help to avoid confusion with the similarly-named Isaac Winslow house in nearby Marshfield. It has been the Mayflower Society House ever since.

In the years following the Red Cross occupancy, the House has seen many other changes. The Historian General's office moved from its longtime location in Boston to the House following a fire at the Boston office that burnt many applications—thankfully replaced by the Member Societies.

A former tearoom was converted into a library, and ultimately a new library was created in 1970 and then expanded in 1991. Improvements were made to the gardens, and the wrought iron gates—originally built around the House but taken down while the Willoughby's owned the property—were rehung. Brick walkways were established in the gardens and the grounds, allowing the House to become what the members wanted it to be—their proud headquarters.

Interestingly, very few early pictures of the inside of the House were found in our archives.

Work on the House continues. Knob and tube wiring that was used in the House for decades for electricity has been replaced. Foundation work to repair structural issues has been addressed. A new copper roof is being installed to make the roof as it was in the late 1890s. Drainage issues have been addressed. Interior repairs will continue throughout the summer.

The House has become the icon for the General Society of Mayflower Descendants. It is the Nike swoosh, the Amazon smile, or the NBC Peacock. The goal of the restoration efforts is to ensure the House is protected for generations to come. There is still work to be done, and the restoration efforts continue. If you would like to contribute towards this project, simply go to **TheMayflowerSociety.org** and make a donation.

ADVERTISEMENT

Embracing the Digital Age...

With a Historian General who understands technological advancements and the advantages they will bring to potential applicants, Society Historians and researchers!

Allie Golon, MBA – Nominee for Historian General

The Colorado Society is proud to endorse the Nominee for Historian General: Allie Golon.

As a result of her work as Chair of the Education Committee and a Member of the Technology Team, Allie Golon was awarded the **2022 Governor General's Distinguished Service Award**. She is actively working to bring her vision – the Easy App Generator – to fruition! This online application generating tool will greatly improve Society Historians' ability to produce member applications and will speed the verification process, as well.

With nearly two decades in the software/technology space, Allie's experience as a Managing Director for an international software company will marry technological advances to GSMD processes and procedures. Certified in Agile Project Management, she will bring years of applied knowledge to exploring necessary process improvements.

As is often the case, genealogy began as a hobby for Allie that quickly turned into a passion – not only for lineage research but the thrill of notifying applicants that their lineage had been verified, their membership approved! She has served in that capacity for several lineage societies for more than a decade.

We can implement the advantages of technology to improve the quality and speed of our application process with a Historian General who knows how!

Endorsed by the Nominating Committee of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants and the Society of Mayflower Descendants in the State of Colorado

Allie has served in the following capacities:

At the National level:

- **Chair of the Education Committee** (2020-2023, GSMD) developing numerous Genealogy 101 Webinars available to the public and training for Historians on Application Preparation and more
- **Member of the Technology Committee** (2020-2023, GSMD) where she has been instrumental in the Website refresh; the testing and implementation of the Dropbox Digital Application Program; and development of the Indexing Program, a precursor to the Easy App Generator
- National **Lineage Research Chair** (2019-2022) & National **Volunteer Genealogist** National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR)

At the State level:

- Colorado **Historian** since 2017; processing a record number of applications for the Colorado Society
- Colorado State **Application Team Chair** (2021-2023, NSDAR)
- Colorado Assigned **Volunteer Field Genealogist** (2023, NSDAR)
- Colorado 2017 **Outstanding Volunteer Genealogist** (NSDAR)
- **Registrar** for numerous lineage societies

Through the Daughters of the American Revolution, Allie has completed the following certified genealogy training programs:

- Introduction to Genealogy Research
- Applying Genealogy Research Techniques
- Advanced Techniques for Resolving Problems with Lineage
- DNA
- Guide to Electronic Applications
- Mid-Level Review of Applications (pre-verification)

Forty-third General Congress

MEG AVERETT, SECRETARY GENERAL

The Forty-third General Congress will take place at Hotel 1620 Plymouth Harbor, 180 Water Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts, September 8-13, 2023. The business meetings of Congress cover two days, Monday and Tuesday, September 11 and 12; if you are a GBOA officer or delegate from your Member Society, do not register for any tours on those days.

Register online at **TheMayflowerSociety.org** in the members-only section. There will be no on-site registration accepted. All attendees are required to register and wear the official registration badges to all events, tours, and Congress Meetings. The official registration badges are your tickets and paid receipt. You will be required to have your registration badge to enter any venue, board tour buses, or attend any scheduled activity.

March 1-May 31: Registration fee of $100.
June 1-July 15: Late registration fee of $125.
June 10: Tour registration ends.
July 15 or upon sell-out: Last day to register.

- Registration fees are non-refundable with no exceptions.
- Requests for refunds on tours must be received by Friday, June 9.
- Requests for refunds on other events, excluding tour cancellations, must be received by Friday, July 14. A $25 service fee will be charged for cancellations.

To DGGs and AGs: If you are not attending Congress, please make sure you forward emails pertaining to Congress from the Secretary General, to your Acting DGG and AG.

To Member Society Secretaries: Attendance forms for Society GBOA officers will be emailed to you after July 15. Please return them promptly to the Secretary General.

CONGRESS SCHEDULE

Friday, September 8, 2023

8:30 am – 2:00 pm Tour: Massachusetts State House and Bradford Document.

10:30 am – 2:00 pm Pilgrim Henry Sampson Kindred, Wampanoag Room, Hotel 1620.

4:00 pm – 8:00 pm Credentials pick-up, Hotel 1620 lobby.

5:00 pm – 8:00 pm The Warren Cousins, Plimoth Patuxet Museums.

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Open for committee meetings.

Saturday, September 9, 2023

8:00 am – 5:30 pm Credentials pick-up, Hotel 1620 lobby.

8:30 am– 5:00 pm Tour: Pilgrims Path.

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Executive Committee Meeting, Standish Room, Hotel 1620.

9:00 am – 10:00 am The Thomas Rogers Society, Plimoth Patuxet Museums & lunch.

12:00 pm – 4:00 pm Whale Watch on Captain John, Plymouth Harbor.

3:00 pm – 9:00 pm Elder William Brewster Family Society, Atlantic Room, Hotel 1620.

6:00 pm – 8:00 pm *Descendants on Deck, Mayflower II* Event.

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm The Billington Family Society, Standish Room, Hotel 1620.

Sunday, September 10, 2023

9:00 am – 11:00 am Credentials pick-up, Hotel 1620 lobby.

10:00 am – 12:00 pm Historians meeting, Standish Room, Hotel 1620.

12:30 pm Pilgrim Progress line-up Mayflower Society House drive.

1:00 pm Pilgrim Progress: from the Mayflower Society House.

2:00 pm Opening Ceremony at the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse, followed by the Garden Reception.

6:00 pm General Board of Assistants Meeting, required for officers (includes DGGs & AGs to be seated for Congress) Hotel 1620 Ballroom.

7:00 pm – 9:00 pm Open for committee meetings.

Monday, September 11, 2023

8:00 am – 9:00 am Credentials pick-up, Hotel 1620 lobby.

9:00 am – 4:00 pm First business session of General Congress: GBOA Officers & Delegates, silent observers as space allows (Hotel 1620 Ballroom).

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch break on your own.

8:30 am – 5:00 pm Tour: Beautiful Newport.

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Open for committee meetings.

6:00 pm – 9:00 pm Pilgrim Isaac Allerton Society, Standish Room, Hotel 1620.

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm Pilgrim William White Society Meeting, Carver Room, Hotel 1620.

Tuesday, September 12, 2023

9:00 am – 4:00 pm Second business session of General Congress: GBOA Officers & Delegates, silent observers as space allows (Hotel 1620 Ballroom).

12:00 pm – 1:30 pm Lunch Buffet, Hotel 1620.

8:30 am – 4:30 pm Tour: Historic Boston.

6:30 pm – 10:00 pm General Congress Reception & Banquet, Indian Pond Country Club, Kingston (*Formal Attire*). Bus leaves Hotel 1620 at 6:00 pm, bus ticket required.

Wednesday, September 13, 2023

9:00 am Executive Committee Meeting for new EC officers, Standish Room Hotel 1620.

Time to be announced 1620 Club Events (by invitation).

MEMBER SOCIETIES INVITED TO SUBMIT NOMINEES FOR 2023 GSMD COMMENDATION AWARDS

GSMD AWARDS CHAIR JANE SCHLEINZER

Do you have a member in your Member Society who has gone above and beyond for your Society? Are you looking for a way to recognize that member's contribution? We can help you recognize that contribution at the 2023 Congress meeting in September.

I hear you ask: what do I need to do to nominate a member? It's very easy. Contact me, Jane D. Schleinzer, Awards Chairman at: **JSchleinzer@TheMayflowerSociety.org,** with your nominee's name and a short description of how your nominee made a difference in your Member Society. Please provide me with the nominee's name as it should appear on their certificate. Only one nominee from each Member Society will be honored.

You must have your entry to me by July 15, 2023. I am looking forward to reading about your Member Society's nominee.

The government of the General Society of Mayflower Descendants is vested in a General Congress that consists of the General Officers of the General Society (Executive Committee Officers, Former Governors General, Former Assistant Governors General, Deputy Governors General and Assistants General), as well as delegates from all Member Societies.

The GSMD Bylaws are specific as to who can vote, as well as the number of votes and delegates allotted for each Society. Voting on bylaws and voting to elect officers are carried out differently.

In addition to their Deputy Governor General (DGG) and Assistant General (AG), each Member Society sends delegates to Congress to represent their Society. Each Society is entitled to *one delegate for every fifty members or majority fraction thereof*, based on membership, including Junior Life Membership, shown in the last annual report, or as of July 15th of the Congress year. Each Society shall have at least three delegates.

There is a common misconception that the number of delegates determines the number of votes to which a Society is entitled. The addition of delegates with the DGG and AG officers does not raise the number of votes; delegates are there to help their DGG and AG make decisions on what is best for GSMD and their Society. Voting on proposed bylaw amendments and elections are carried out by Member Societies, not by individual officers.

AMENDING THE BYLAWS

Proposed amendments to the Bylaws can be adopted only at Congress, by a vote of each Member Society present and voting. In order for a proposed amendment to pass, there must be *a two-thirds majority,* with each Member Society present entitled to *one vote*. If all fifty-four Member Societies were represented, the proposed amendment would require affirmative votes from thirty-six Member Societies to pass.

ELECTION OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OFFICERS

Executive Committee Officers are elected by a majority electoral vote of the Member Societies present and voting.

Each Member Society is entitled to *one electoral vote for every two hundred members or fraction thereof.* The total electoral vote of any Member Society will not be more than five electoral votes or less than one. A Member Society may divide their electoral votes, only in whole numbers, if they so choose. Elections are by ballot, except if there is only one nominee for an office, in which case the vote for that office may be by voice vote.

Note: The three Members-at-Large shall be elected by a plurality vote. The geographic representation is determined by the Bylaws.

The current Bylaws 2020 state: There shall be three Members-at-Large of the Executive Committee, at least one, with a maximum of two whom shall be from a Member Society whose greater portion lies West of the 91st West Meridian (Longitude) and East of the 89th East Meridian (Longitude). In the case of dual memberships, a member's Member Society shall be considered to be the Member Society that first received the initial application of the member, unless said member be an officer representing the additional Member Society.

At the 2023 Congress, there is a proposed bylaw amendment, if approved, to define the geographic location more clearly: The three Members-at-Large shall be elected from an East and West division. At least one, with a maximum of two Members-at-Large shall be from the East division. The East division shall consist of the Member Societies whose greater portion lies east of the Mississippi River and shall include Europe. The West division shall consist of the Member Societies whose greater portion lies west of the Mississippi, and shall include Minnesota, Canada, and Australia.

The following are biographical summaries for the general officer nominees to be elected at the Forty-third Triennial Congress in September for the 2023-2026 term. The full biographies for the general officer nominees are available on the GSMD website at **www.TheMayflowerSociety.org/members/**.

Governor General Nominee Lisa H. Pennington, Esq. of the Texas Society is currently serving as Counsellor General, and she was an Executive Committee Member-at-Large for the 2017-2020 term. Lisa has provided important legal support for numerous Society concerns, and she also initiated the Mayflower Virtual Lecture Series. Lisa serves as a Trustee for the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse and is committed to its development and future role in telling the Pilgrim story.

Assistant Governor General Nominee Carter O. Wiese of the South Dakota Society is currently serving as Captain General and is a Trustee of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse. In 2019, Carter and his wife Sharon were awarded the Governor General's Distinguished Service Award in recognition of their years of service to GSMD. Carter's civic commitment and constructive approach will be valuable assets to the General Society.

Secretary General Nominee Martin "Marty" W. Beerman of the Nebraska Society is currently serving as GSMD Assistant General for Nebraska and is a member of the GSMD Technology Committee. At the 2019 General Board of Assistants Meeting, Marty was recognized with a GSMD Certificate of Commendation and Appreciation. Marty is a past Governor and past Historian of the Nebraska Society.

Treasurer General Nominee Bart S. Henson of the Texas Society is currently serving as Treasurer General, as a Trustee of the National Pilgrim Memorial Meetinghouse, and as chair of the Endowment Committee. He has also served on the GSMD Finance Committee in 2020 and 2021. Bart is eager to improve the efficiency of the Treasurer General's Office and improve transparency and clarity of communication with the general officers and GSMD members.

Historian General Nominee Alexandra "Allie" Shires Golon of the Colorado Society has served the General Society on both the GSMD Technology Committee and as Chair of the GSMD Education Committee. In these roles she has contributed enormously to the structure and content of the GSMD website, with special attention to streamlining the application process for new members. She is working to generate new webinars for Member Society Historians. In 2022 she received the Governor General's Distinguished Service Award.

Counsellor General Nominee James "Jim" J. Wheaton, Esq. of the Massachusetts Society, serves as their Counsellor, working with their Board officers on a variety of issues. He is a Clinical Associate Professor and Director of the Startup Law Clinic at Boston University School of Law. This position requires him to be very familiar with the formation and organization of LLCs, corporations, nonprofits, and intellectual property issues, among other skills.

Elder General Nominee Reverend Michael R. Denney of the Maine Society is an ordained minister for the United Church of Christ, serving as Pastor of the Second Congregational Church in Ossipee, New Hampshire, and is the President-Elect of the Board of Directors for the New Hampshire Conference of the United Church of Christ. He also teaches World Religions and Public Speaking at Franklin Pierce University.

Captain General Nominee Collier S. Wiese of the South Dakota Society serves as the GSMD Deputy Governor General for the South Dakota Society and as a member of the GSMD Scholarship Committee. He is also a member of the Europe Society. Collier worked as a Physician Assistant including active duty in the US Army National Guard, recently ending his service in the Indiana Army National Guard at the rank of Major.

Surgeon General Nominee David Lowell Nash, MD of the Florida Society earned his MD degree from the University of Minnesota, and did a Surgical Internship at Duke University, followed by Residency in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Mayo Clinic. He served as a teaching physician in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the Mayo Clinic with a subspecialty in Pediatric Rehabilitation.

MEMBER SOCIETY FEES AND DUES, 2022

Member Society	Application Fee	Annual Dues	Life Membership Fees	Supplemental Fee	Junior Registration Fee	Number of Junior Members
Alabama	$150	$60	N/A	$150	$10	Unknown
Alaska	$185	$50	N/A	$135	N/A	N/A
Arizona	$150	$52	N/A	$150	$25	92
Arkansas	$200	$45	N/A	$155	$5	57
Australia	$125	$85	N/A	$125	$25	4
California	$245, $215 additional family member on the same line	$75	N/A	$180, $140 additional family member on the same line	$50	403
Canada	$130.85	$56.09	N/A	$130.85	$18.69	31
Colorado	$150	$50	N/A	$150	$20	113
Connecticut	$200	$65	N/A	$200	$50	312
Delaware	$175	$65	$520-$1,300	$150	$20	101
D.C.	$200	$65	Sliding	$200	$25	9
Europe	$250	$50	N/A	$150	0	1
Florida	$165	$54	Sliding	$165	$30	960
Georgia	$175	$65	$500	$125	$0	1
Hawaii	$165	$50	N/A	$115	$25	3
Idaho	$195	$45	$555	$135	$25	0
Illinois	$225	$75	Sliding	$150	$15	159
Indiana	$235	$80	$800	$160	N/A	N/A
Iowa	$175	$40	N/A	$125	$15	230
Kansas	$198	$53	N/A	$145	$20	296
Kentucky	$200	$50	$1,000	$150	$10	4
Louisiana	$250	$65	N/A	$250	$75	28
Maine	$175	$50	Sliding	$150	$15	400
Maryland	$325	$60	N/A	$200	$50	29
Massachusetts	$300	$95	Sliding	$250	$100	522
Michigan	$200	$52	Sliding	$148	$10	584
Minnesota	$265	$65	N/A	$200	$45	30
Mississippi	$175	$50	Sliding	$150	$2	45
Missouri	$175	$50	N/A	$125	$25	140
Montana	$195	$45	N/A	$150	$25	16
Nebraska	$150	$45	N/A	$150	$20	83
Nevada	$215	$45	N/A	$170	$10	65
New Hampshire	$225	$75	N/A	$150	$30	104
New Jersey	$210	$50	$1,200	$135	$10	279
New Mexico	$220	$56	N/A	$200	$10	56
New York	$150	$150	$3,000	$150	$100	77
North Carolina	$225	$50	N/A	$225	$35	39
North Dakota	$150	$60	N/A	$150	$15	48
Ohio	$175	$56	N/A	$160	$10	391
Oklahoma	$205	$55	N/A	$150	$6	43
Oregon	$175	$50	N/A	$175	$20	93
Pennsylvania	$125	$70	N/A	$150	$0	43
Rhode Island	$200	$35	$2,000	$200	$3	67
South Carolina	$230	$70	Sliding	$230	$50	120
South Dakota	$150	$60	Sliding	$150	$15	
Tennessee	$170	$45	N/A	$170	$25	13
Texas	$220	$50	$1,500	$170	$15	505
Utah	$150	$60	N/A	$140	$10	0
Vermont	$175	$55	Sliding	$175	$10	138
Virginia	$225	$50	N/A	$175	$10	409
Washington	$150	$49	N/A	$150	$15	142
West Virginia	$150	$40	N/A	$150	$15	17
Wisconsin	$195	$45	Sliding	$150	$25	597
Wyoming	$200	$70	N/A	$25	$5	26

GSMD MEMBERSHIP TOTALS, 2013-2022

Member Society	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013
Alabama	243	254	256	271	256	240	226	196	195	175
Alaska	60	61	59	66	64	68	66	73	73	73
Arizona	360	358	402	406	384	387	382	383	363	367
Arkansas	100	99	123	112	126	117	129	117	100	91
Australia	49	43	37							
California	2,615	2,512	2,615	2,392	2,410	2,404	2,476	2,504	2,438	2,577
Canada	264	245	239	267	254	249	245	255	245	229
Colorado	595	591	619	540	513	492	492	475	459	453
Connecticut	1,452	1,488	1,514	1,444	1,404	1,379	1,363	1,361	1,344	1,368
Delaware	176	183	184	172	193	186	187	187	180	175
District/Columbia	429	414	413	420	440	439	410	420	430	425
Europe	64	59	60	68	65	61	59			
Florida	1,564	1,548	1,539	1,570	1,526	1,451	1,390	1,338	1,311	1,278
Georgia	324	396	383	354	369	373	362	353	336	327
Hawaii	72	74	93	95	99	92	90	88	105	116
Idaho	157	151	154	143	144	133	142	143	134	133
Illinois	1,110	1,101	1,106	1,120	1,097	1,085	1,066	1,045	1,022	1,057
Indiana	427	414	432	445	452	428	433	445	436	436
Iowa	329	331	369	379	376	371	374	366	356	331
Kansas	407	440	451	436	439	404	384	393	391	382
Kentucky	228	210	198	201	194	190	187	175	171	165
Louisiana	178	172	176	169	171	164	154	165	162	156
Maine	1,113	1,108	1,097	1,088	1,108	1,091	1,090	1,112	1,138	1,173
Maryland	506	488	471	424	474	444	407	397	378	365
Massachusetts	3,883	3,879	3,892	3,706	3,628	3,526	3,381	3,372	3,354	3,356
Michigan	1,035	986	928	858	828	821	823	845	863	807
Minnesota	457	476	465	463	466	450	445	498	483	441
Mississippi	184	176	179	184	190	183	177	177	164	163
Missouri	306	322	309	304	306	302	303	304	308	310
Montana	109	118	119	123	116	116	117	113	116	118
Nebraska	269	271	269	277	296	284	290	297	288	299
Nevada	177	178	178	169	159	158	150	133	122	133
New Hampshire	603	571	593	593	595	566	540	557	529	518
New Jersey	786	764	831	825	786	792	804	789	766	771
New Mexico	144	144	153	185	176	171	164	161	160	158
New York	1,590	1,568	1,513	1,396	1,437	1,404	1,294	1,255	1,223	1,227
North Carolina	352	541	567	574	581	597	696	675	651	607
North Dakota	111	105	113	121	118	123	115	110	105	102
Ohio	900	984	999	932	946	916	891	873	831	812
Oklahoma	186	190	170	275	267	256	258	252	260	256
Oregon	272	257	263	246	235	215	218	206	207	255
Pennsylvania	852	819	801	758	776	757	741	718	594	596
Rhode Island	494	491	504	490	478	474	448	441	428	428
South Carolina	462	431	440	403	385	377	405	393	356	362
South Dakota	326	309	308	315	309	296	283	277	270	259
Tennessee	194	242	243	233	212	195	199	195	196	256
Texas	1,427	1,442	1,424	1,472	1,414	1,344	1,300	1,258	1,191	1,159
Utah	316	301	285	294	255	266	293	281	252	223
Vermont	473	616	606	606	556	581	596	606	600	598
Virginia	948	891	847	782	774	748	725	724	739	727
Washington	362	351	400	459	441	451	423	448	413	409
West Virginia	58	58	60	53	46	45	46	46	48	55
Wisconsin	626	641	641	621	581	557	538	534	523	531
Wyoming	78	81	101	104	108	107	107	117	112	110
TOTAL	**30,802**	**30,943**	**31,191**	**30,403**	**30,023**	**29,326**	**28,884**	**28,646**	**27,919**	**27,898**

Mayflower Indexers – Preserving the Legacy of Pilgrim Descendants

CHRIS SCHLOSSER, TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE CHAIR

The development of an indexing platform to digitally capture 400 years of life events for every generation of our Mayflower ancestors, from verified Mayflower applications, continues in full-speed mode.

The indexing platform is in the final stages of development and testing with volunteer indexing beginning soon. To date, over eighty members of The Mayflower Society have volunteered to join the Mayflower Indexers ranks.

What does a Mayflower Indexer do?

Indexers will view previously approved applications via the Internet on a desktop computer or laptop, using Google Chrome, Safari, Edge or Firefox. Then, enter that data in a form on the indexing platform specifically designed to mirror our applications for easy data entry.

An Internet connection is necessary for any device as this index is a web-based tool. Due to small screen size, indexing on smartphones and tablets is not possible.

The Mayflower Society applications have evolved since the first application was approved in 1897. With early applications often handwritten, there may be challenges deciphering handwriting or margin notes. Because of this problem, all applications will be indexed by two volunteers with a third "arbiter" making a final determination if there are discrepancies between the two indexers. Therefore, Mayflower Indexers can do the best job they can, knowing more eyes will be reviewing.

Indexers will be assigned applications on a priority basis. Indexers may not request specific applications to index.

When can a Mayflower Indexer index?

Indexers can volunteer in their homes at times convenient to them for as much time as they want. Once launched, the indexing platform will be open for business and available to Mayflower Indexers 24/7.

Why are Mayflower applications being indexed?

The current system of accessing data from prior applications is mostly a manual process. Building new applications is entirely a manual process. Fully digitized applications and documentation and fully indexed applications will enhance access for Plymouth staff and member society historians and at the same time further preserve our treasure trove of Pilgrim descendants' historical data.

How important is this project?

Once complete, the Mayflower Generations Index will fuel the Easy App Generator that will populate new member or supplemental applications with data that has previously been approved. When fully implemented, Easy App Generator will improve the application process for applicants, Member Society Historians, and Library and Verifier teams.

In addition, the creation of a comprehensive applications index and automated applications are a huge leap forward for The Mayflower Society. Mayflower Indexers will have the honor of knowing they have propelled The Mayflower Society to a new level in the digital age—at the same time preserving the lineages of generations of Pilgrim descendants.

What training will be provided to Mayflower Indexers?

Detailed instructions and indexing resources on how to capture all critical information from every generation is being developed as the indexing platform is finalized.

Do I need special skills to be a Mayflower Indexer?

Indexers should enjoy extracting data from historical records and demonstrating an attention to detail.

Who can be a Mayflower Indexer?

Only Mayflower Society members are eligible to participate. All indexers will be required to sign a Nondisclosure Agreement (NDA) form prior to starting the project.

How do I learn more about joining the Mayflower Indexers?

To volunteer, or to ask questions about volunteering, please contact Ms. Chris Schlosser, Technology Committee Chair, at **TechCommittee@TheMayflowerSociety.org**.

In Memoriam

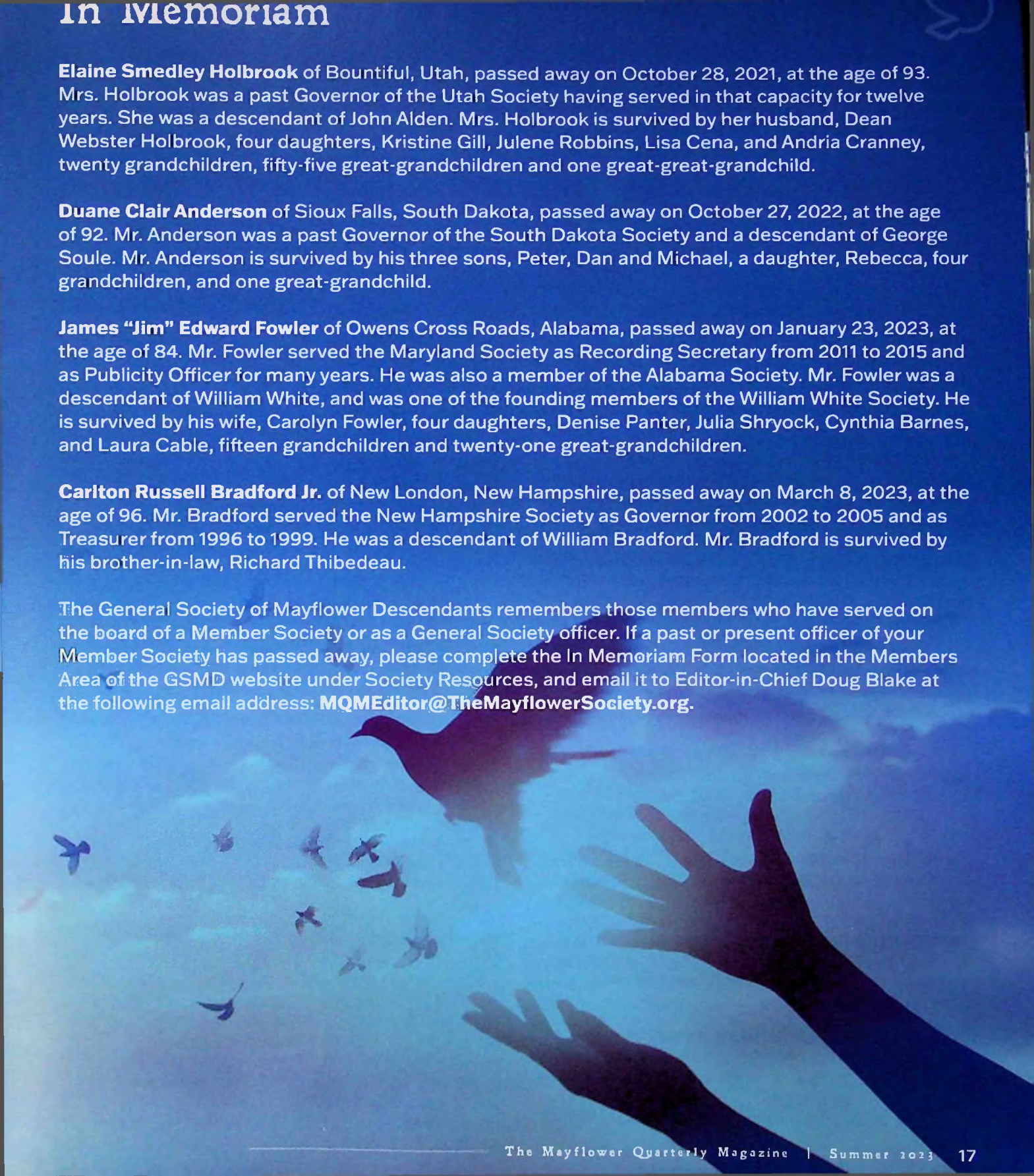
Elaine Smedley Holbrook of Bountiful, Utah, passed away on October 28, 2021, at the age of 93. Mrs. Holbrook was a past Governor of the Utah Society having served in that capacity for twelve years. She was a descendant of John Alden. Mrs. Holbrook is survived by her husband, Dean Webster Holbrook, four daughters, Kristine Gill, Julene Robbins, Lisa Cena, and Andria Cranney, twenty grandchildren, fifty-five great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

Duane Clair Anderson of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, passed away on October 27, 2022, at the age of 92. Mr. Anderson was a past Governor of the South Dakota Society and a descendant of George Soule. Mr. Anderson is survived by his three sons, Peter, Dan and Michael, a daughter, Rebecca, four grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

James "Jim" Edward Fowler of Owens Cross Roads, Alabama, passed away on January 23, 2023, at the age of 84. Mr. Fowler served the Maryland Society as Recording Secretary from 2011 to 2015 and as Publicity Officer for many years. He was also a member of the Alabama Society. Mr. Fowler was a descendant of William White, and was one of the founding members of the William White Society. He is survived by his wife, Carolyn Fowler, four daughters, Denise Panter, Julia Shryock, Cynthia Barnes, and Laura Cable, fifteen grandchildren and twenty-one great-grandchildren.

Carlton Russell Bradford Jr. of New London, New Hampshire, passed away on March 8, 2023, at the age of 96. Mr. Bradford served the New Hampshire Society as Governor from 2002 to 2005 and as Treasurer from 1996 to 1999. He was a descendant of William Bradford. Mr. Bradford is survived by his brother-in-law, Richard Thibedeau.

The General Society of Mayflower Descendants remembers those members who have served on the board of a Member Society or as a General Society officer. If a past or present officer of your Member Society has passed away, please complete the In Memoriam Form located in the Members Area of the GSMD website under Society Resources, and email it to Editor-in-Chief Doug Blake at the following email address: **MQMEditor@TheMayflowerSociety.org.**



EUROPE

European Society Faces Challenge of Membership Spanning Many Different Nations

Newly elected Governor of The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Europe, Carmen Kew.

The Society of Mayflower Descendants in Europe elected Carmen Kew as its third Governor, effective in January 2023. From her home in England, Ms. Kew will serve a Member Society which enfolds the geography where each of the Mayflower passengers' particular stories began, during the mundane, dramatic years before the Pilgrims set sail across the Atlantic. In Great Britain and in continental Europe, descendants of the Mayflower passengers now live and work where their ancestors lived and worked. These members of The Mayflower Society, with their distinctive history and recognized lineage, mingle their new stories with the echoes left behind by their ancestors. Their history and lineage are opportunities to celebrate. They also create a formidable challenge.

The European Society was established in 2016 as the world prepared to celebrate the 400th Anniversary of the Mayflower's journey. A diverse membership, from eleven different nations, came together with purpose and hope.

At its inception, the European Society prepared for a storm of international interest. European communities had made vast investments in heritage sites connected to the anniversary. Events were planned and publicized on a grand scale. A tidal wave of membership inquiries was expected. Instead, in a plot-twist that could not be foreseen, every nation involved fell victim to COVID-19 with its attendant restrictions. Those exciting events – simply did not happen. People barely noticed that a lineage organization related to the *Mayflower* had been established in Europe.

The European Society found itself stranded in the places its people had left, far from the country where they had gone. Without the focus of the anniversary, with membership straggling across the span of a continent, lacking the structure of a long-standing set of traditions, the European Society inevitably struggled. Still, the Society did manage to survive. Now, the Society faces the challenge of finding new methods to draw its rag-tag group of members together with new purpose. Each member's ancestry contains the promise that this European Society is possible, though, for these are people who persist, who continue to move forward, and who constantly adapt to challenging situations. We are determined to find ways.

The European Society now looks forward to using the newest technology to connect. We will learn, be entertained, and enjoy new ties within our far-flung community through the Internet. We plan to celebrate the most traditional pleasures of meeting together in-person as a community, too, for we intend to create new traditions that celebrate our heritage. We are grateful for the support provided by the General Society of Mayflower Descendants while we navigated rough waters. We are thankful for each individual member who has contributed determination, will, and tangible resources towards the survival of this Member Society. We look forward to sharing our unique perspective on the journey to come, in the pages of this magazine.

Submitted by: Carmen Kew, *Governor*

HAWAI'I

Hawai'i Society Welcomes Governor General Jane Hurt and Celebrates Sixty-fifth Birthday as a Society

Left to right: Peter Young, Governor; Jane Hurt, Governor General; Lynda Hylander, Past Governor.

With great excitement and anticipation, Governor Lynda Hylander welcomed Governor General Jane Hurt and Secretary General Meg Averett to Hawai'i on March 2, 2023. The highlight of two days of sightseeing was a drive around the island stopping at some of the storied places of O'ahu. We enjoyed some local foods, too... malasadas, cocoa puffs (not the cereal!), shave ice at Matsumoto's on the North Shore and dim sum in Chinatown. Member-at-Large

Lorrie Link and her husband, Gary, arrived a few days later and we all attended the lu'au at the Hale Koa Hotel where we were headquartered for the visit.

On March 10th the members of the executive board gathered at Mariposa Restaurant for a meet and greet with our special guests. We spent several hours just chatting and sharing stories while watching the sunset over the vast Pacific Ocean.

March 11th dawned sunny and bright, the beginning of a beautiful day in Hawai'i when the members of the Hawai'i Mayflower Society gathered for our Annual Meeting. We welcomed special guests, Governor General Jane Hurt, Secretary General Meg Averett and Member-at-Large Lorrie Link and her husband, Gary, as well as celebrated our Sixty-fifth Birthday and installed a new executive board. Assistant1, Bill Stiles, and his wife, Ellen, graciously opened their beautiful home overlooking Maunalua Bay and Koko Head and Crater for the meeting. We enjoyed Governor General Hurt's presentation about her path to the Mayflower Society, updates on the restoration of the Meetinghouse and the Mayflower Society House, and the history of the Governor General's Medallion. The Hawai'i Mayflower Society presented her with a lovely gold cuff bracelet with the word, "ALOHA" spelled out to remind her of all the aloha shared during this special time for the Hawai'i Society. Governor Hylander shared a special oli, a chant, which explained the meaning behind the word Aloha. Governor General Hurt then installed Peter Young as our new Governor; Alana Lee, Deputy Governor; Lindsay Kamm, Secretary; Judy Kinser, Treasurer; Jim Tueller, Historian; Eric Smith, Assistant Historian and Bill Stiles, Assistant1. What a wonderful celebration! We even had birthday cake! Our society was very honored to have these Executive Committee officers visit us and we mahalo them for making the long trek from their home states.

Our members reside on 4 islands (O'ahu, Hawai'i, Maui and Kaua'i), twelve U.S. States on the North American continent and Australia. Meetings will continue to be held via TEAMS (like Zoom) as well as in person. We would love to have all our members join us at these meetings.

Submitted by: Lynda J Hylander, *Governor*

UTAH

Utah Society at RootsTech 2023

Members of The Utah Society with Executive Director Mark Schmidt and DGRS Erin Scheopner at the GSMD RootsTech table.

After a three-year absence due to the pandemic, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants (GSMD) returned to Utah in early March for RootsTech 2023. The Utah Society spent three days volunteering at the GSMD booth, helping to hand out over 1,000 lineage reviews, GSMD flyers, and information to help prospective members research their lineage in preparation for application to The Mayflower Society.

It was wonderful to visit with so many Mayflower cousins and see their excitement about proving their heritage. We were able to answer many questions and explain some of the benefits of membership in GSMD. We talked about connecting with family and the importance of knowing your ancestry to pass along to future generations. It was exciting to get to know new cousins, learn more about the Pilgrims, and talk about the importance of the Pilgrims' legacy and how it influenced the founding of our Nation.

We encouraged many RootsTech visitors to travel to Plymouth and see the Mayflower Society House. We also talked about scholarship possibilities, the GSMD Library, the *Silver Books*, and the Members-only section of the website. Plymouth event updates were given to visitors, and we showed them issues of *The Mayflower Quarterly Magazine*. We also talked about the advantages of having local meetings and programs where we can visit with our cousins in person.

As descendants of Mayflower passengers and members of GSMD, we have the satisfaction that our lines are proven. We have our lineage and documentation on file in Plymouth for future generations. There is also a sense of belonging because we can feel a strong connection to those who lived during the early Seventeenth Century.

It was a memorable weekend at RootsTech. We look forward to volunteering at RootsTech 2024, and we hope to see you there!

Submitted by: Thomas Portlock, *Governor*

Mary Churchill of Plymouth Colony: Hiding in Plain Sight

PEGGY M. BAKER

The Churchills of Plymouth Colony are well-documented. They not only married and had multiple children, they also bought and sold land, largely in the area about a mile south of Plymouth center, today known as Wellingsley. But the Churchills have more than deeds! They have an actual family story – the story of Mary Churchill.

Mary was born on 2 August 1654, the daughter of John and Hannah Churchill, and her birth was listed in the Plymouth Colony Records.[1] We next see her on 17 January 1671/2, age 17, unmarried, and pregnant, standing before the Plymouth Colony Court, accused of fornication. Mary (whose condition was undoubtedly apparent) confessed, and not only named her unborn child's father as Thomas Dotey, but provided the Court with a chronology. She and Thomas, during the previous summer of 1671, had three separate "close encounters": the first time on (or around) July 15, then again on August 8, and the third and final time about a week later.

As if Mary's confession was not sufficient, the Court also called a witness. Sergeant Ephraim Tinkham testified that he had gone to the house of Joseph Churchill, Mary's brother, expecting to meet Thomas Dotey there. He knocked at the door, but no one answered – so Ephraim walked right in and "stayed a while in the outward room." He then heard noises and realized that he was not alone. He called out, but no one answered, so he kept on sitting, until

> "... att length Mary Churchill came forth, and hee asked her if Thomas Dotey was in the house or noe; but shee did not reddily answare him, but after some pause shee answared that hee was in the house; soe hee desired to speake with him; and soon after, Thomas Dotey came forth, and soe the said Serjeant Tinkham and hee went away together."

Ephraim testified that, on their walk, he had warned Thomas that his behavior was dangerous, and advised him to "take heed least evill might come of such carriages." Mary, for her part, confirmed to the Court that this had, indeed, been the second of her three intimate meetings with Thomas Dotey, the only man with whom she had ever had relations. The court ended with Joseph Churchill and John Drew standing surety, to the tune of £10, that Mary would appear at a future court for sentencing, and that she would not leave the court's jurisdiction.[2]

Standing security was not just a formality; it was a real concern. Thomas Dotey had left the Colony. According to Mary, Thomas' departure had coincided with their third and last tryst. And Mary Churchill was not the only Plymouthean he left in the lurch. Six weeks after Mary's initial court appearance, on 5 March 1672, the court heard a case brought against Thomas Dotey, *in absentia*, by Josiah Wornall. The Town of Plymouth had, on 13 December 1670, granted Thomas an acre and a half of land, in a place known as "Alcarmus Field," for the specific purpose of building a house there, "in the most Convenientest place."[3] Thomas had contracted with Josiah to build the house frame, and then left the Colony without paying Wornall for his labor. The court found for Wornall but ordered him, first, to contact Thomas' brother Joseph Dotey to see if he would fulfill the contract and, if he would not (and he did not), then Wornall was free to sell the house frame to recoup his costs.[4]

A few months later, on 5 June 1672, after the birth of her child (a daughter named Martha), Mary Churchill returned to court for sentencing; she was fined £6.[5] Four months after that, on 30 October 1672, Mary turned around and brought her own lawsuit against Thomas. She claimed that she was now in a "poor depleted condition," since "... Thomas Doten, having begotten her with child, is departed the gov'ment, and it is doubtfull whether hee will returne againe...." Mary asked, therefore, that she be awarded all of Thomas' goods for her support and that of her child. The jury found in her favor. Mary received Thomas' third part in a boat (owned by Thomas in partnership with Lieutenant Morton and Thomas Howes) along with a third of the boat's nets, anchors, anchor cables and sails; a gun being held by Ephraim Morton and a rapier held by George Morton; forty shillings owed for the rent of the boat; and some boards (probably meant to be used for that house Thomas had been

building).[6] She was not, however, awarded the acre and a half; the land in Alcarmus field still belonged to Thomas on 15 May 1677.[7]

The court proceedings raise a question. Men who were single, and intending to remain so, seldom built houses. Thomas Dotey's contract for a house frame probably indicates that he had matrimony on his mind.[8] Why, then, head for the hills? Why not simply marry? One consideration might have been that marriage did not erase bad behavior. The birth of a child at an unsuitable date, even if the parents had married before the child's birth, could result not only in the same sort of public humiliation suffered by Mary, but also in a similar hefty fine. Perhaps the mortifying prospect of being hauled into court, combined with the threat of monetary punishment (not to mention a possible close encounter with Mary's older brothers), was enough to send Thomas into a panic.

Whatever his reasoning, common sense eventually prevailed and Thomas returned to the Colony. This we know because Thomas was back in court again, on 29 October 1673, being sued because the boat of which he was master had run against another boat, causing the loss of an anchor and part of an anchor cable.[9] As for the first meeting between Mary Churchill and Thomas Dotey after his return to Plymouth Colony? This time there was no Ephraim Tinkham to tell the tale. But meet they did, and reconcile they did, and, eventually, they did marry. Hannah, their second child (and the first within the bonds of matrimony), was born in December of 1675.[10]

Thomas Dotey died three years later, on the 4th or 5th of December 1678. He left a "nuncupative" Will, meaning that it was not a written document but, instead, an oral declaration made to a witness. Thomas Dotey's Will was exemplary; there were three witnesses, and his wishes were committed to writing within twenty-four hours. Not that there was much to remember; Thomas gave his entire state "absolutely to his wife Mary Dotey to be wholly att her Dispose."[11] At the time of Thomas' death, Mary was once again pregnant. The baby, another Thomas, was born posthumously on 22 July 1679.[12] Nine years later, on 8 February 1687/88, Mary Dotey, widow, married a Henry Churchill.[13] Henry (no known relation to Mary) was, like Thomas, a seaman.[14]

But is this really how Mary's story proceeded? It is at this point, with Thomas Dotey's Will, the birth of his son, and the remarriage of his widow, that Mary's life and identity becomes a matter of debate and confusion.

The monumental *Churchill Family in America*, published in 1904, claimed, without citing proof or rationale, that Mary (Churchill) Dotey, daughter of John and Hannah Churchill and wife of Thomas Dotey, died after Hannah's birth. Thomas then married an entirely different Mary (surname unknown), meaning that the Mary of the Will, the mother of Thomas' posthumous son, was not Mary Churchill at all. Henry Churchill's existence was not even acknowledged.[15]

A later article, published in *The American Genealogist* in 1960 and cited (albeit cautiously) in *The Great Migration Begins*, agreed that there had been "two Marys." It added, however, reasoning behind the claims, namely that the Henry Churchill who married widow Mary Doty was an undocumented son of John and Hannah Churchill. Of course, if Henry Churchill was the son of John and Hannah Church, as well as being the (second) husband of Thomas Doty's widow Mary, then that widow could not be Mary Churchill and must have been another Mary altogether.[16] All of these conclusions arose from the ambiguous Will of Mary Churchill's father, John, combined with a single document relating to the estate of Mary Churchill's mother, Hannah.

Let's unpick these two documents.

John Churchill died 1 January 1662/3.[17] He left a "nuncupative" Will but, unlike Thomas Dotey's, it had only one witness, Abigail Clark, the 20-year-old daughter of the Churchills' neighbor, George Clark. And, unlike Thomas Dotey's Will, which was written down within twenty-four hours, Abigail heard John Churchill's final wishes on 24 December 1662 and her account of those wishes was not entered into the Court records until 3 March 1662/3, some ten weeks later. At that time, Abigail stated that John Churchill had made bequests to his wife (unnamed), to sons Joseph, Eleazer, John, and William, and to daughter Hannah, and then referred to "such of his Children as have had nothing in p'ticulare as above given them," who were to receive portions of what was left over.[18] Mary Churchill was not named in her father's Will

but her parentage, having been recorded, is not in doubt. The wording of John's Will, however, does leave open the possibility that there might have been other unnamed children born to John and Hannah Churchill.

Now, let's turn to the probate records of Mary's mother, Hannah. Six years after John's death, on 25 June 1669, Hannah Churchill made a second marriage, to Plymouthean Giles Rickard.[19] Hannah was widowed once again, on February 1st or 2nd 1684/5, when Giles Rickard, then age 87, died.[20]

Hannah died, as Hannah Rickard, 22 December 1690.[21] She left no Will but, on 17 March 1690/1, an inventory was taken of her estate. It is this document that is said to prove that there was an otherwise-undocumented Churchill brother named Henry with the conclusion that inevitably follows: if there were a brother Henry, then Thomas Dotey's widow (whom Henry had married) indeed could not have been Mary Churchill, since Henry could not marry his own sister.

The document begins,

"An inventory of the estate of Hannah Rickard Deceased now in the possession of Her Children taken and apprized by us whose names are hereunto Subscribed on the 17th day of March 1691."

Then follows,

"At Joseph Churchels one pair of sheets, one boulster, two napkins, one iron pot, and a gill pot...

At Eleazer Churchils one Bed and Boulster, one pair of sheets, one coverlet, one blanket, 2 napkins, 1 candlestick, one platter...

At John Churchills one sheet, two napkins, one pillowbeer, one quart pot...

At John Drews one bed and boulster, one pair of sheets, one coverlet, one blanket, two napkins, one pewter platter

At William Churchills one sheet and blanket, two pillows, two napkins, one kettle, one half pint pott

At Henry Churchills one bed, boulster, one pair of sheets, one blanket, two napkins."[22]

Joseph Churchill, Eleazer Churchill, John Churchill, and William Churchill are indeed documented sons of John and Hannah Churchill. The TAG article concludes, therefore, that Henry Churchill was also Hannah's son. There in the list, however, is John Drew, the same John Drew who stood surety in Court for Mary decades earlier. He was not Hannah's son, he was Hannah's son-in-law and his unnamed wife (the younger Hannah Churchill) was still living.[23] All the list proves is that Henry Churchill was either the son or the son-in-law of Hannah (Churchill) Rickard. It does not tell us which is the correct answer.

The entire question had been settled by Hannah herself less than a year earlier. On 30 June 1690, Hannah Rickard executed three deeds, each of which granted a quarter-part of certain lands that Hannah owned in Middleborough. In each, she was named "widow, formerly wife of John Churchill." One deed granted land to William Churchill, named as Hannah's son. A second deed granted land to John Churchill, named as Hannah's "true and natural son." A third deed granted land to Mary Churchill, named by Hannah as her "true & natural daughter."[24]

The TAG article attempts to discount these deeds by surmising that although Mary was not her daughter, Hannah was very fond of her, because Mary, as a young widow, had raised Hannah's grandchildren, the two girls born to Thomas Doty and his first wife, Mary Churchill. Then, Mary, stepmother of Hannah's grandchildren, had married Hannah's supposed son Henry and become her daughter-in-law. The wording of the deed was said to refer to this close and muddled relationship.

Hannah did, certainly, have a special relationship with her two Dotey granddaughters; Martha and Hannah are the only two grandchildren (out of Hannah's recorded thirty-five) who are named in Hannah's inventory as holding possessions of hers. The nature of that relationship can only be conjectural. Such conjectures are not, in themselves, however, sufficient to explain why Hannah would not only bypass a supposed son in order to give land to a supposed daughter-in-law, but misrepresent that relationship in a legal document. They instead serve to complicate (without any proof) an issue for which no complications are needed.

Nothing in the documentation contradicts the conclusion that Mary Churchill was indeed the Mary Dotey named in Thomas Dotey's Will; that she was the mother of the posthumous baby Thomas; and that she was the Mary Dotey, widow, who married Henry Churchill (who was not her brother but, by coincidence, shared her surname).

Henry remains a man of mystery; his background is entirely unknown. His marriage to Mary in 1687/88 was his first appearance in the records of Plymouth Colony. Unlike the other proven Churchill brothers, he engaged in very few land transactions, and none of Henry's deeds involved the extended Churchill/Rickard family.

After their marriage, Mary and Henry lived in Plymouth where, on 1 September 1707, Henry was granted thirty acres of land.[25] By 1714, they were living in Plympton where, on 8 July, Henry Churchill granted all his land in Plympton, Plymouth and Rochester, after his death and the death of his wife Mary, to his "Dutifull Son in Law Thomas Doty of Cape Cod" ["son in law" being the terminology usual at the time for what we would refer to as his "stepson"].[26]

Henry Churchill probably died before 9 May 1721 when Mary's son Thomas Dotey wrote his Will, giving the bulk of his estate to his own son, yet another Thomas, and requiring that he maintain his grandmother Mary Churchill during her natural life.[27] By the next year, Mary was living on Cape Cod; on 6 March 1721/2, Mary Churchill of Cape Cod, late of Rochester in Plymouth County, widow and relict of Henry Churchill of Plympton, gave her grandson Thomas Doty land in Middleborough; the same land that had been granted to her by her mother in 1690.[28] By 11 October 1725, however, Mary had left the Cape and was back in Plymouth County, selling land as Mary Churchill of Rochester, "widow and relict of Henry Churchill and also widow of Thomas Doty of Plymouth."[29] She appeared in court 18 October 1725 to acknowledge the deed and, then, simply disappears from view.

Mary, who by that date was 71 years old, had lived her long life to its fullest. Not in itself an unusual achievement! Mary was remarkable, however, in that so much of that life had been documented. Her first independent appearance in the records of Plymouth Colony was in the most adverse of situations: a teenager, pregnant and unmarried, abandoned by her lover, facing a charge of fornication, and exposed to scorn, with the story of her disgrace made excruciatingly public. She weathered that trial and, with the support of her family, not only survived, but sued the absent father of her child for support. When Thomas Dotey did finally return, she married him and the two – legally, this time – created a family and a home. On Thomas' death after, probably, less than six years of marriage, Mary bore his posthumous son alone. For the next nine years, she was the single parent of three children. When she did marry again, that second marriage lasted over thirty years. After Henry's death, Mary briefly moved to the Cape, probably to live with her grandson, but soon returned to Plymouth County where she lived, seemingly on her own, until at least 1725.

In perhaps the ultimate vindication, long before her death, Mary had the satisfaction of knowing that her reputation, torn to shreds in her teenage years, had been completely rehabilitated. On 4 July 1703, Mary Churchill, wife of Henry, was admitted to the Plymouth church.[30]

ENDNOTES

1. Nathaniel B. Shurtleff, ed., *Records of the Colony of New Plymouth in New England* (Boston: Commonwealth of Massachusetts, 1855), 8:16.
2. Shurtleff, *PCR*, 5:83-84.
3. *Records of the Town of Plymouth* (Plymouth, Mass.: The Town, 1889, 1892, 1903), 1:116.
4. Shurtleff, *PCR*, 5:87-88.
5. Shurtleff, *PCR*, 5:94.
6. Shurtleff, *PCR*, 7:173.
7. *Plymouth, TR*, 1:152, 153.
8. Shurtleff, *PCR*, 8:33. Mary Churchill was able to tryst in her brother Joseph Churchill's house (which he had inherited from his father) because there was no female supervision; Joseph did not marry until 3 June 1672.
9. Shurtleff, *PCR*, 5:133.
10. *Vital Records of Plymouth, Massachusetts, to the Year 1850* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1993), 4.
11. *Mayflower Descendant*, 4:233-34.
12. Shurtleff, *PCR*, 8:67.
13. *Plymouth, VR*, 85.
14. Plymouth County, Land Records, 3:159; 12:199.
15. Gardner Asaph Churchill and Nathaniel Wiley Churchill, George M. Bodge, ed., *The Churchill family in America* (S.l., s.n.: after 1901), 5.
16. Mrs. John E. Barclay, "Notes on the Dotey and Churchill Families," *The American Genealogist* 36 (1960): 1-11.
17. Shurtleff, *PCR*, 8:23.
18. C.H. Simmons, Jr., ed., *Plymouth Colony Records, Volume 1: Wills and Inventories, 1633-1669* (Camden, Maine: Picton Press, 1996), 540-41; Shurtleff, PCR, 8:23.
19. Robert Charles Anderson, *The Great Migration Begins: Immigrants to New England, 1620-1633* (Boston: NEHGS, 1995), 3:1491-93.
20. *Plymouth Church Records, 1620-1859* (New York: New England Society of New York, 1920-23), 1:256.
21. *Plymouth, CR*, 1:269.
22. Plymouth County, Probate Records, 1:89.
23. Plymouth Co., LR, 10:2:440-41. Hannah (Churchill) Drew died after January 1714/5 when she signed a deed.
24. Plymouth Co., LR, 1:315-16; 7:178-79; 3:157-58. The deed for the other quarter part has not been found.
25. *Plymouth, TR*, 2:12.
26. Plymouth Co., LR, 11:161. Note: At this time, both the husband of a daughter and a stepson would be referred to as a son-in-law.
27. Barnstable County, Probate Records, 4:45-48.
28. Plymouth Co., LR, 16:10.
29. Plymouth Co., LR, 19:152.
30. *Plymouth, CR*, 1:195.

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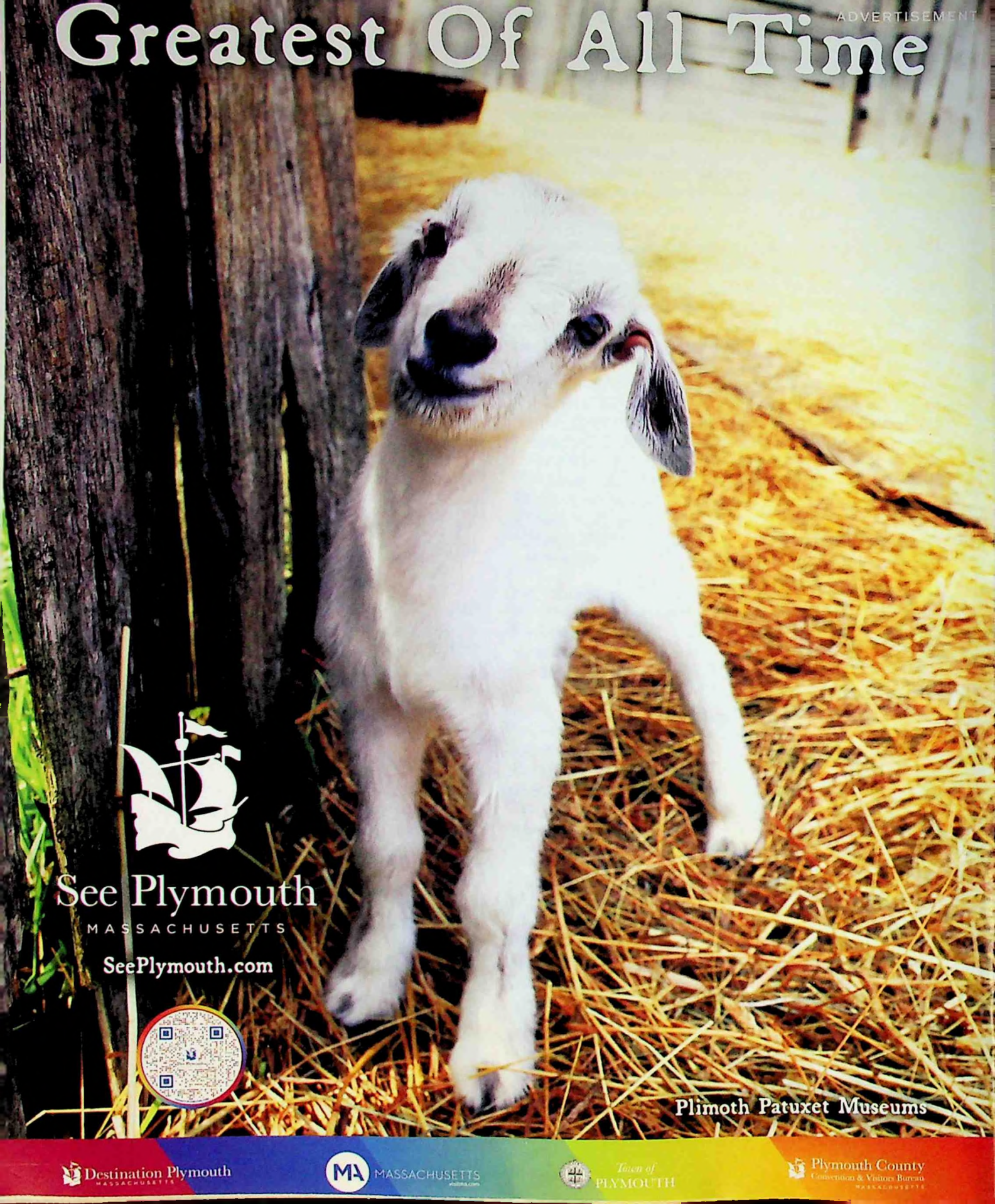

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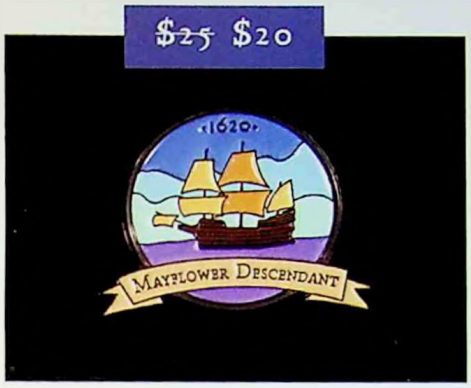

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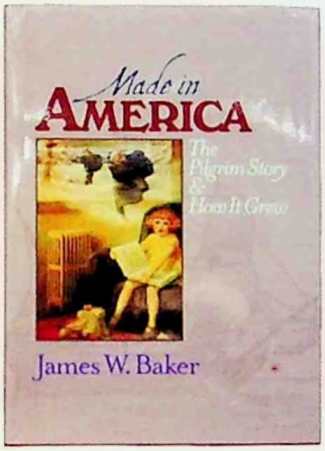

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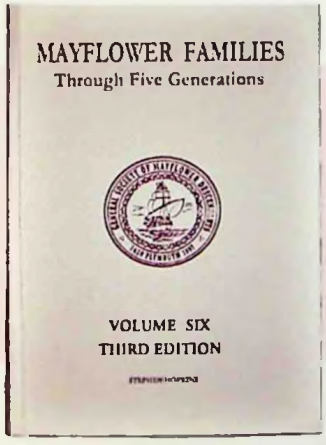

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Volume 6, Stephen Hopkins
Third edition, 2001.

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PERIODICAL

VOLUME 89, NO.2
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